



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

\$1.00

Volume IV, Number 17

June 1, 1992

Welcome everyone to another issue of "AR". If these pages start oozing black goo it's because Papa Shango has put a curse on this newsletter. We've got columns galore in this ish as Jeff Bowdren and K.C. O'Connor join the "AR" regulars Scott Hudson, Mike Terry, and Evan Ginzburg with their views on the mat game.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A label on your envelope indicates how many issues you have remaining. All renewals, letters, and match results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547.

#LIVE REPORT#

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Thursday, May 28, 1992

Tampa Sportatorium

Tampa, FL

Opening Match

Steve Collins beat Kenny Kendall by DQ in 7:01. Kendall is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Gods of Steel tag team. His partner Jim Steel was at ringside with their "manager" who is an owner of a restaurant that the boys frequent. Next they'll use the waiter as the referee. Kendall's partner and manager did a run in for the DQ. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

2nd Match

The Okono Kid downed the Coconut Man in 4:34 with a standing frankensteiner. Okono was one of the Japanese boys that work for WING. Really young kid who wore a Liger mask. Did some nice moves. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

ICWA Heavyweight Championship

Dick Slater retained the ICWA title by beating Hercules in 10:04 due to outside interference on the part of Steve Collins. Slater was the heel but the crowd was split. Herc is clean shaven which makes him look 10 years younger but he still wrestles like he's 10 years older. Surprisingly no one yelled Super Invader at him but then again Jeff Bowdren or Dave Flaherty weren't here either. Heh, heh. Slater did some nice work on Herc with a bar stool outside the ring. After a ref bump, Slater hit Hercules with brass knucks and as the ref was counting three, Collins ran in to stop the count. After Dick attacked Steve, Collins nailed him with the knucks which got him dq'd. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

United States Tag Team Championship

Terminator & Master Blaster won the US belts from Allan Iron Eagle & Iceman in 18:04. Laurenidas & Al Greene won the belts even though Iron Eagle held them with Lou Perez. Iceman was Ricky Santana under the hood. The owner of the restaurant was managing the heels and he threw powder in Eagle's eyes which was followed up by Greene delivering a powerbomb that almost landed Allan on his head instead of his shoulders. Pretty decent action. ***

Main Event-Texas Death Match

Jimmy Backlund defeated Mark Starr two falls to one in a total time of 12:30. Rules were never announced and after the first fall when they continued we thought it was until one couldn't continue but it ended up being just a regular 2 out of 3 bout. Backlund took the first fall with a double arm suplex into a powerbomb in 3:04. Starr won fall 2 when after slamming Jimmy's head into a wall 3 times delivered a powerbomb of his own at 7:54. Backlund won the third fall with a legdrop from the top rope at 1:32. I'm tired of campaigning for Backlund to get a spot with Turner but the guy is a tremendous worker. Mark Starr has never done anything for me. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

NOTES

Crowd was 145. They run here every Thursday and Saturday which is why they'll never draw. Tony Aragona who made the trip with me said the reason why they only had 1 US tag belt was because Slater was in the shower and they couldn't get the ICWA belt to use. They came out with it later.

 RAMBLINGS

We're going to start off with a little Bill Watts talk here. I still think it's a crazy idea to focus on house shows and diminish number of PPV's. But if he's going to do it, you need to do it right. There are two things that need to be done. 1) You must run your core cities every 4-5 weeks. You need continuity. 2) You need to run episodic house shows. Everyone talks about Watts doing great episodic TV. Well, he needs to do the same thing with the houses. That means that say you run Jacksonville on June 1 with the "A" team. You come back July 1 with part of your "A" team mixed with others. You don't come back with a whole different crew. And on that previous show you've done something to create interest for the next month. And please start announcing the next card's line up before the main event. I can't remember the last time WCW has done this. Is it that difficult to figure out? I'm off my soapbox now.....Cactus Jack may be the one to take Diamond Stud's place in the Dangerous Alliance. He doesn't fit the mold in my book. I rather see him on his own.....ICWA has taken the IWF's dates at the Golden Nugget Flea Market in Tampa. Their first show will be 6/20 at 2:00 p.m..... ICWA on 5/30 in Tampa saw Mark Starr beat Jimmy Backlund in a "Loser Leaves State" match. Backlund headed for his tour of Japan. Dick Slater beat Steve Collins. Brady Boone over The Coconut Man and others.....Bill Watts & Jim Ross will meet with Lance Rassel this week concerning Steve Beverly's future on the 900 line. It was Kip Frey who wanted Steve off and that was due to complaining by some WCW employees namely one who Jim Ross characterizes as having "two big asses".....Bill Wilcox won the finals of the UCW tourney in Nashua, NH by beating Freight Train Fulton in front of 100 on 5/29.....5/30 in Wallingford, CT before 400 saw Bushwhackers over Double Trouble (old Undertakers in ICW), Tony Atlas beat Tommy Dreamer, Chris Candido over Ray Odyssey, Tazmaniac beat Vic Steamboat.....I thought the Muta-Brad Armstrong bout from TBS this past week was one of the best technical bouts I've seen in a while. I wasn't looking that forward to it because most I heard about the match was **. Not much flying but it was a great wrestling bout.....Surprised to see the Zbyszko turn air already since they just taped it last week in Chattanooga. The angle was good but typical WCW, they don't talk about it the rest of the show.....PWA taping in Belton, SC on 5/14 had Grizzly Boone, Bambi, and the main bout saw Bill Mulkey pin Stan Lane. Who the hell booked that thing?..... Marty Jannetty received 6 months house arrest and 2½ years probabtion for the charges stemming a few months back at Yucatans in Tampa. He's wearing an anklet and can still leave the house to work out and work shows. He can work out of state but the Florida law agencies must contact the state he's working in so they can monitor him while he's in that state.....5/28 before 1,700 in Raleigh saw Rude beat Steamboat clean in a cage with the Rude awakening. The finish is hot with Ricky hanging Rude by his toes from the top of the cage and Steamboat coming off the ropes to do 3 splashes on him. When he attempt the fourth, Madusa frees Rick's feet and Steamer crashes into the cage. Rude then applies the awakening. Wouldn't you figure that Steamboat would be the one to show the other guys you can do clean jobs? The guy has too much class.... Jake Roberts will start his mega push on 7/1.....There will be an American Bash Tour as it was announced in Baltimore that on 7/4 would be a Bash with Justin Liger, Terry Gordy, and Steve Williams among the regulars.....If all goes according to plan watch for the Steiners to face Liger & Pillman in the semi-finals of the tag tourney. Scary.....David Crockett has either been let go or quit depending on who you believe.....For those that ordered back issues of the second set of "AR" they'll be in the mail next weekend.....Steve Collins and Penelope Paradise were involved in a bad car accident on 5/27. They started hydroplaning at 60 miles oer hour and slammed into a couple barriers but came out with no injuries. The Mercedes they were in was totaled.....ICWA starts TV on 7/4.....The new Samoans Samu and Kokina managed by Afa will debut at the WWF tapings in Worcester and Portland, ME on 7/27 and 7/28.....Whatever happened to the Maulers and the SST or did I ask that last issue?.....WWF taping three nights this week in Canada. Monday in Hamilton they have Savage vs. Michaels in the main dark match with Bret Hart facing Rick Martel and Berzerker-Under-taker.....Nearby brush fires forced Klon and his family out of their house last week. Still not sure where his priorities lie as the two things he and his wife took out of the house were their personal family videos...and Klon's Japanese Wrestling Journals. You should be honored Masayuki.....Cliff Anderson, the Bad Boys, and Big Till of the Heartbreakers have all quit the IWF. All the wrestlers from the IWF's contracts all ran out this month. From all indications very few will resign the exclusive contracts so watch for thses talented guys to pop up in other federations.....Mondo Kleen will be or already is the new ICW champ as Tony Atlas quit.....6/28 in Wallingford, CT will have Don Muraco vs. Honkey Tonk Man, Bushwhackers-Powers of Pain, Marty Jannetty-Kevin Sulliavn, and a good possibility of Tazmaniac vs. Eddie Gilbert..... Ted DiBiase asked to be pulled off the road for a while due to Mike Gunter-like reasons.....Double Trouble will work some upcoming WWF house shows in the north-east. This is due to their lawsuit vs. McMahon for using the Undertaker name. Another out of court settlement I guess. There probably wasn't any ring boy

A PIECE OF MY MIND
by Evan Ginzburg

Great to be back gang. Lets' get down to business with "A Piece Of My Mind"....

Vince McMahon's "RIGHTS":

I can't recall the exact words, but Dave Meltzer recently stated that in regard to in-ring product, Vince McMahon had the "right" to do as he pleased, as it's "his company."

I agree and disagree.

Let me explain...

Certainly, one is entitled to take a business, and do what is needed to make as much profit with said company as possible. But restraints must be instilled at some point, and in the case of many entrepreneurs, self-restraint may be the most difficult restriction of all. Ted Turner may have every legal right in the world to colorize classic Black & White films, but purists consider it the equivalent of mutilation. You can also take an "art house" showing foreign & independant films, and have the right to turn it into a third rate porn theatre if that generates more income, but the morality may similarly be questionable. If there is more money in toys, t-shirts, magazines, etc. than selling arena tickets, than so be it. The business evolved, and McMahon rightfully exploited the changes he helped create. But what was done to the in-ring product, is the equivalent of "death" to us hardcores who have been around long enough to know good wrestling from schlocky "sports entertainment". Simply put, there is a debt to the paying customers who at \$19.00 per ticket ringside deserve to be given the best possible product. When the parent takes a family out to a show, you're talking an EXPENSIVE night. The very same money spent on tickets, popcorn, parking & souvenirs can be spent at a movie, play, concert, or other family outing. Most other entertainers at least make the attempt to give the paying customer the most for their money. When I walk into work in the morning, I certainly give my all. Nothing less should be expected of the athletes, although such is rarely the case. I know wrestlers seethe when the layman criticize workrate & cite laziness, but in many cases this is simply the reality of the matter. There is NO EXCUSE to have a 4 minute main event as the Warrior and Sid recently did. These men are paid damn well, and should give 110% each and every night. Sure, some are "road weary" and others are simply "held back" (as Owen Hart was in his first stint), as to not show up the non-wrestlers who usually are the main-eventers, but the bottom line is that hard working people are paying top dollar and it's the equivalent of having their pockets picked. Maybe if you're uneducated as to what good wrestling is, the entire scenario may nonetheless be appealing, and incredible as it may seem to me, constitute suitable entertainment. The music, birds, dogs, and other gimmicks may be enough for some. But for us hardcores who CAN distinguish between wrestling and sleepwalking, it's a nightly atrocity that I for one have no desire to be part of.....

ODD & ENDS....

When was the last time Ted DiBiase wrestled a decent match?...Ditto Jake The Snake, king of the TV angle, but another dud in the ring...I still stand by the good things I said about Gordon Scozarri...How is a guy like the Berzerker supposed to have credibility when he loses consistantly for months & is then placed in a major feud? Bad booking...The Road Warriors continue what amounts to a year plus "paid vacation". Has anyone ever slipped so much in so short an amount of time? Talk about guys "not caring"...Upcoming monthly interviews in Wrestling-Then & Now (\$1.25 issue/\$15.00 year to yours truly at P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364): Killer Kowalski, Bob Orton, Sr, Pez Whatley on racism in wrestling, Billy Anderson, Ed Sharkey, Baby Doll, and more...Has wrestling boiled down to waiting every few months for one or two good matches on a PPV? Seems like the sad reality of the situation as few house shows are enticing enough to lure me, most east coast indies are recycling WWF has-beens, and WCW doesn't even come to my NYC/Tri-State area anymore. Sad...

And on that happy note, let's end this joyous, uplifting column! Catch you all next time!!!

OF MICE AND WRESTLERS
by K.C.O'Connor

Bill Watts is in WCW and hardcores everywhere are screaming like a bunch of teenage girls for Elvis. Well since Bill is going to accept the sheets, maybe now would be a good time to offer Elvis, uh Watts, some advice and help with a job that has poor Dusty "overworked and underappreciated." One of the first problems that Watts or rather the wrestlers will encounter is the number of guys vs. the number of spots on the card. Watts' original plan of running two shows has already raised a few eyebrows. Hey Bill, no one is going to the opera if the fat lady doesn't sing. But a few hundred miles north is a golden opportunity to make money, help WCW's image, keep people employed, try new ideas and angles, and give some guys a chance to recharge without losing anyone to Vince. Smoky Mountain Wrestling has a chance to be the missing piece to Ted Turner's wrestling puzzle.

Jim Cornette must feel like he invented a better mousetrap. Now everyone wants a pest-free promotion. Well a few mice that Watts may want to get rid of are DDP, Vinnie Vegas, JYD, Ricky Morton, Zman, Big Josh, JT Southern, and some others. Doubtfully anyone has bought a ticket to see these guys in years. But they still may have a little juice, sorry, appeal left in them. As long as there are hormones and puberty, someone will pay to see Morton, Zman, and Bagwell. Well, why not send them where those ticket buyers are? They're obviously not at the Omni. And when a heel like Vinnie Vegas doesn't get over as a mid card heel, why not bring in a Tony Anthony or a Billy Black who would really spice up the middle of the card? Terry Taylor, a Watts favorite, surely could use some time to brush up on his obnoxious attitude and interviews before Watts repackages him and shoves him down everyone's throat. While the egos of today's WCW wrestlers may feel insulted by being "sent down," they must understand and be made to feel that they are still playing an important role in WCW, and that nothing is permanent. Besides a position in a regional promotion would be a lot better than most positions Vince McMahon would put them in. And speaking of Vince, before bringing back the Shepherders, Duggan, Nikolai Volkoff, and the One Man Gang, try them out in SMW to see if they want to work, or just a ride on the Watts Gravy Train.

TBS doesn't need to acquire SMW for this to work. Watts and Cornette have known each other a long time, and if anyone could work together on a handshake, it's these two. If there is some legal mumbo-jumbo that has to be arraigned fine, that's why Kip is still on the payroll. If Watts wants to send someone down and Cornette can't use him, fine. Give him a list of promoters phone numbers and wish him well. If some young hotshot thinks he's ready for the big show and Cornette and Watts agree, let TBS sign him for 12 weeks. If he works out OK than sign an appropriate deal. But all contracts, for every wrestler, should state that if a performers attitude, work ethic, or general appeal wanes he will be sent down for a period of no less than 90 days. The decision should be made by one of those handy committees', not Watts or Dusty alone. If they maintain a similar behavior for Cornette, bye-bye. This way Cornette only has to deal with eager newcomers and former headliners who will bust their ass to get out of the doghouse with Watts.

Unfortunately the hardest workers sometimes get caught in a rut. Ricky Morton deserves better than doing four minute jobs to Dustin Rhodes, but no one knows what to do with him. A good gimmick should evolve with the wrestler, and if not, changed. Ricky Morton has become the Bob Denver of wrestling. He will be forever linked with the Rock & Roll gimmick. Hey, after Boogie Woogie Dance Hall, where do you go? A haircut and new tights may not be enough, so send him to the county fairs and high school gyms. Morton is a big star in Misenheimer, N.C. Cornette could use him in the ring, behind the scenes, and helping with the new guys getting started. Have Rick Steiner lose a loser leaves town match. Send him to SMW as a commentator. After a couple of weeks Cornette can have the "Heavenly Bodies" come out and beat up Rick, pronouncing themselves the most dominant team in wrestling. Then Rick can say that he has seen a wrestler in SMW that he thinks would make a great partner and run a program for the belts. After the story finishes with the belts changing back and forth Rick announces that he must go back to WCW to help his brother with whatever he's involved with, but he promises to return one day to the great Smoky Mountain area.

If business lulls a little in SMW send the US champ to battle the SMW champ. One shot deals in the best town every three or four months would help pop a big house plus add legitimacy to both champions. Because both promotions are trying to make money, WCW shouldn't come within 50 miles of a SMW town. Don't make the fans have to choose between the two promotions because then you're only competing with yourself for their money. A SMW fan may be able to pick up WCW wrestling on TV, but SMW itself should not be seen where there are no SMW shows running.

When someone new enters or reenters WCW, they should be packaged with a highlight video and interview time to relay how they have come to be in WCW. They can tell sordid tales of the struggles they have gone through to make it to WCW. This helps WCW image wise by making it appear that WCW is the major promotion. There may be some wrestlers who find that the lighter work load and travel time is more to their liking. For those whose only option was Vince or retiring, they get a second chance. There have got to be guys in WCW simply because they have no where else to go.

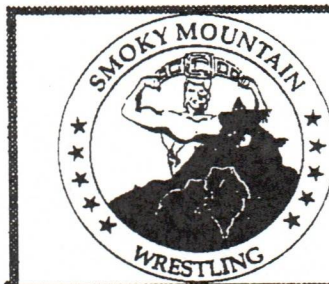
Now granted, like so many suggestions in the sheets, this would probably tough to pull off with injuries, trips to Japan, and so forth, but this is a situation where nobody loses. The mice that are flocking to Jim Cornette's crumbs right now would feast if they had the crumbs from WCW. And if a certain booker still feels naked without his boots and tights on then dress him up in the SMW rings and you'll really see the SMW mice feed. Most importantly for Watts, he can say "I told you so!", his apparent motivation, and Cornette will be in a position to return to WCW himself perhaps as a booker or a future vice president to one day replace Watts. Jim Cornette and Bill Watts are only a phone call away from being the tag team of the 90's.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL**THE JACKSONVILLE CATCH PHRASE REFERENCE GUIDE**

1. "DIAMOND DAVE SUCKS!" - The reverent respect shown to the richly deserving heel manager Dave Yarborough at the Southeastern Wrestling Alliance show on May 16, 1992, in Callahan, Florida. A good time was had by all.
2. "HARLEY, LET ME TAKE YOU ON A SEA CRUISE." - Musical salute from front and second row section B to the Joseph Hazelwood / Ted Kennedy of WCW. He didn't get it.
3. "JASON HERVY!..YOU SUCK!!" - Steve Prazak's eloquent editorial on the star of ABC's "The Wonder Years" (is that phrase becoming a cliché or what?!) prompting our favorite nebbish kvetch to stop-turn-and ask: "What was that?"
4. "JOHNNY B. TANN" - He's a taaaannnn man!
5. "DADDY! DADDY! I LOVE YOU, DADDY!" - John Hitchcock's impassioned plea to Mark "The Purple Haze" Lewin during a 1981 house show. Lewin's response? "Yoots!"
6. "&*&@ YOU!" - Scott Steiner's instruction to Tatsumi Fujinami during their **** $\frac{1}{4}$ match, once again proving the old adage "you can take the man out of Michigan, but you can't etc."
7. "TODD CHALLENGER" - Dave Flaherty's wishful bastardization of C.F.'s ring moniker. Next? "Todd Hasbeen", hopefully.
8. "LOOK! IT'S CHRIS SULLIVAN!" - Craig Johnson's almost child-like reaction to a glimpse of the SEWA lead heel in Cuco's Mexican Restaurant at the Jacksonville Landing. O.K., O.K. I'll admit it. We all marked out.
9. "LANCE, I'LL HAVE WHAT HE'S HAVING" - Gordon Solie to Lance Russell after viewing a tearjerking video of Dallas Reverend Robert Tilton with a rather unfortunate occurrence of raging flatulence. Thank you, Jesus!!
10. "BOOOAAATING! BOOOAAATING!" - The moral equivalent of the "BORING" chant only directed at any wrestler (this time it was The Super Invader) who is managed by Harley Race. He didn't get this one, either.
11. "FEEL THIS!" - Eric Bischoff to his #1 fan Steven "DeTruth" Prazak, encouraging him to see, once and for all, that Eric's hair did not break. It didn't bend, either.
12. "SORRY, BUB" - Rick Steiner's no doubt heartfelt condolence to Takayuki Izuka after landing on his face.
13. "YOU GUYS DON'T NEED MY ADVISE. YOU'RE FANTASTIC! ALL YOU GUYS NEED IS A BETTER FORUM AND A WIDER AUDIENCE!" - Thank you Paul E. We agree, we agree.

Sorry for those of you who didn't get to the Jacksonville show. It was a hell of a weekend.

THE LAST WORD...

Jim
Cornette
is
onto
something
here.

RANDOM THOUGHTS by Jeff Bowdren

Am I the only one who's noticed how fat Michael Hayes has gotten lately? I mean, what a pig! Hey Mike! Lay off the doughnuts will ya? And Jimmy Garvin looks like some strung out Grateful Dead roadie or something. Is there nothing worse in wrestling than an old looking rock-n-roll act?.... And speaking of WCW tag teams, is anyone else getting a little tired of the lazy ass Steiners? All Rick wants to do is the goofy comedy spots, and Scott now seems content to do the 5 spots he's memorized. What happened to the '88 or '89 Rick Steiner, who brought back memories of mentor Buzz Sawyer? Now Rick works maybe the big shows. And what about Scott, who was the consensus pick as Flair's successor in early '91? They just seem to be going thru the motions. Maybe a combination of Gordy, Doc, & Bill Watts will help them regain their inspiration....Really like the way Hart & Piper from Mania was booked. When Piper was putting the belt around Bret's waist, I kept asking myself why more title changes can't be handled this way....Sure Flair-Savage was a great match, and Ric is still the MAN (isn't that right, magnet?), but I found the whole photo angle to be uninspiring at best....Am I the only one who wouldn't mind if I never heard the word steriod again? Enough already!... Got a look at my buddy John McAdam's U.C.W. (don't I at least get credit with coming up with the promotion's name John?) The graphics are impressive for a local group and while the workers are green, some show potential, particularly Bill Wilcox....Recent Japan tapes (thanks Mr. Sims) have me convinced that Hiro Hase, Keiji Muto, Jushin Liger, Toshiaki Kawada & Kenta Kobashi are the 5 best workers in the world. Pick your own order....A recent look at a "Best of Memphis-1991" tape showed me that Eric Embry has become the Jonathan Boyd of the 90's. You remember Boyd, the guy who pretty much burned down San Antonio & the old Southwest promotion, and then came to Memphis and had a "Snakebox Death Match" with Jeff Jarrett, with the gimmick being that you had to throw your opponent into a box full of poisonous to win the match. You know, real highbrow entertainment. Well, Eric "Mr. Class" Embry, he of the valet beatings and assorted blindings seems to be keeping Mr. Boyd's proud heritage going. Guys like Embry give the business even more bad press that it doesn't need. If Embry shows up in a promotion, sleazy angles are bound to follow....Why does Nikita Koloff have a job? Dusty's personal bootlicker is one of the alltime slugs in the business. Poor Ricky Steamboat will have to carry his ass bigtime in the upcoming tournament. It just goes to show you that Dusty knows that Ricky is a rare talent. He certainly wouldn't put Nikita with someone who couldn't work. By the way Nikita, I think Dusty's car could use a good waxing. Take care of that for him, will ya?....As to Ron's comment that Dustin would be a good choice to groom as world champ. I would almost agree, because Dustin has made tremendous improvement and has that non-steroid look, except one thing. Unfortunately for Dustin, his wrestling career will always be tied to his father. I don't think Dustin will ever break away, and so, may become the 90's version of Kerry Von Erich, as far as being a guy with a lot of potential who may never realize it because he knows his dad will always take care of him and have a spot for him....Best of luck to the big cowboy....Would love to get a hold of Cornette's Smokey Mountain Wrestling on a consistent basis. Anyone who is willing to trade can reach me at P.O. BOX 16814 Plantation, Fla 33318....Still looking for anyone interested in trading football tapes also....Later.....

Jeff Bowdren

P.S. WRESTLEMANIA GENERALLY UNINSPIRED. REMEMBER WHEN EVERY MATCH AT A P.P.V. MEANT SOMETHING? WATGAMES WAS A TREMENDOUS BLOODFEST. PILLMAN-ZENK WAS WELL BOOKED. STEINERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR WHAT HE DID TO IIZUKA.... *JB*

IT'S MY 2-CENTS

by Mike Terry

So what was your reaction when Ultimate Warrior heaved in your living room? The first word that popped into my mind as I slid my ham and cheese omelet aside was "Why?" Is this what we've come to? Of course, kids may just eat this up (figuratively speaking, of course). The violence, the coffins, the swords, the snakes--this is the stuff the hot youth-appeal movies are full of. Perhaps some method to the madness. As I watched Warrior writhing on the gurney with his tummy rumbling, I wondered if maybe a little baby Shango would burst from Warrior's stomach.

I caught Hulk Hogan on Nickelodeon--one of their teen-oriented shows. The host asked him if he thought he'd quit wrestling now that Wrestlemania 8 was history. Hogan replied that before Wrestlemania, he thought he would quit, but is leaning toward returning and challenging Randy Savage for the belt. Hogan also called himself "the John Wayne of the 90's" (a step down from immortality, or is it?). The Hulkster told the kids he'd begin the new movie, tentatively titled "Rough Stuff" in mid-May. He plays a nanny. We've come a long way from Mary Poppins.

Spare change...one of the first things I'd do if I ruled WCW would be to tell Nikita Koloff to lose the stupid accent.....how embarrassing it must have been for Jim Ross to have to put up with Jason Hervey as co-host recently on "WCW Saturday Night".....aren't the boneheads at ESPN a little trigger-happy on the bleeper? Editing out "hell" may be a bit extreme these days. I caught one recently where they edited "hell" out of the "live action," but forgot to edit it on a replay later in the show.

Quote of the month: Bobby Heenan on Big Bossman: Perfect: (He's) "the only kind of guy I know who goes to a family reunion so he can find a date."

There has been no shortage of criticism of the wrestling promotions for their demeaning treatment and portrayal of women and African-Americans. Where is the outrage over the treatment of Tatonka? I'm really surprised more of a fuss hasn't been made. Tatonka's introduction to the WWF with the well-produced videos impressed me. But it wasn't long before Chris Chavis became known as Tatonka and that red streak appeared in his hair for a reason that still doesn't make sense to me. The lame racial insults (mainly from Rick Martel) are a turn-off to me.

What an ironic situation--to have Steve Beverly replaced on the WCW Hotline by his nemesis Diamond Dallas Page--the man with the invisible storyline.

Thumbs up to the Wrestlewar PPV, but the TV promotion for the event seemed haphazard. The Pillman-Zenk confrontation on "WCW Saturday Night" was nifty, but should have come earlier. Do you realize they spent the majority of the final show before the PPV, and the last 3 segments of this show dealing with Pillman-Zenk?.....why have so many fans begun bashing the Steiners? Do we know for a fact they were shooting with Iizuka & Fujinami? Do we know for a fact they weren't told to make it realistic? If they've become uncooperative, they deserve criticism. But, with the exception of the injury to Iizuka, it seems the Steiners are getting ragged on for being stiff & realistic--something that's applauded when it happens between competitors in Japan. Plus it opens up a terrific revenge motive for the Japanese team in the NWA tournament or for the next time the Steiners go to Japan.

I wish they'd invent the Cowboy-cam so we could be in on the meetings between Watts and his new employees. I'd especially love to see the meeting with Barnett.

Seeing a recent interview with Mike Davis on the GWF reminded me of Jim Cornette's old line about "summer teeth." Summer green...summer gone.....and what a sorry crew of announcers the GWF has now. From the ring announcer to David Webb to the color commentators--maybe Papa Shango put a curse on them--removing any semblance of talent and ability.

So for another month, you've got my 2-cents. It's it and that's that! Enjoy your summer!

 #CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER#

Rochester War Memorial (WWF)

Rochester, NY

April 27, 1992

Correspondent: Brent Clark

1) Rick Martel used "arrogance" to beat Tito Santana in 15:22. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 2) Nasty Boys over Jim Powers & Owen Hart in 12:37. Powers was pinning Saggs after a powerslam but Knobbs came off the top rope with an elbow and reversed the pin. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 3) Crush beat Kato with a spinebuster in 8:00. Crush did some good power moves. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Ultimate Warrior defeated Papa Shango in 6:00 with 3 running clotheslines, a flying shoulderblock, and splash. Dud 5) Davey Boy Smith finished off a sunset flip on Repo Man when the ref kicked Repo's hands off the ropes. * 6) Bret Hart beat Shaun Michaels in a tremendous bout that went 17:00. Lots of fast action with the ending coming when Michaels crashed into Sherri and Bret rolled him up. **** $\frac{1}{2}$ 7) Legion of Doom over Beverly Brothers when Roadies did the top rope clothesline on Blake. *** ATT: 4,000

William McKinley Center (ASWA)

Verona, PA

May 16, 1992

Correspondents: John Lanigan & Andy Stowell

1) Dead Ringers Ugh & Pug beat Masters of Disaster Shawn Patrick & Mark Curtis in 16:49 when Pug pinned Curtis after Patrick hit his own partner with a superfly. *** $\frac{3}{4}$ 2) Shawn Patrick beat Mark Curtis in a battle of the two former partners as Curtis couldn't pin Patrick in 5:00 so he was forced to leave town. *** 3) Tylin beat Kid Collins in 9:01 via DQ when he was caught with a belt. ** 4) The Inmates beat Jimmy Lee & Biff Bartholemew in 3:47. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Cody Michaels beat Lord Zoltan with a reverse sunset flip at 15:06 in the best bout of the night. ** $\frac{3}{4}$ 6) Brian Anthony over Chocolate Playboy in 3:24 when Playboy (Sy Youngblood) stomped on the ref for the DQ. * $\frac{3}{4}$ 7) Dominic DeNucci beat Masked Superstar (Not Bob Cook or Bill Eadie) in 14:26 with an airplane spin. ** ATT: 85

Reaves Arena (WCW)

Perry, GA

May 22, 1992

Correspondent: Jimmy Marshall, Greg Berryhill, Phillip Berryhill

1) Terry Taylor & Greg Valentine beat Mike Graham & Marcus Bagwell. 2) Scotty Flamingo pinned Van Hammer. 3) Brian Pillman over J.T. Southern. 4) Dustin Rhodes downed Mr. Hughes. 5) Ron Simmons defeated Cactus Jack. 6) Nikita Koloff sickled Dallas Page. 7) Steiner Brothers beat Larry Zbyszko & Arn Anderson. 8) Sting & Ricky Steamboat beat Steve Austin & Rick Rude.

Hoisington Arena (SSW)

Hoisington, KS

May 22, 1992

Correspondent: Gary Waugh

1) Lightning Lennie beat Ron McFarlane on a DQ in 13:25. 2) "Wildchild" Mike Flaherty pinned Doug Buttons in 7:15 with a schoolboy. 3) Skull and Smooth Operator wrestled to a 15 minute draw. 4) Ron McFarlane & The Renegade (Equalizer from Portland fame) beat Lightning Lennie & Wildchild with the help of a foreign object in 11:12. 5) The Panther pinned Irish Hitman in a hair match in 7:00. At the beginning of this bout Panther suffered a dislocated shoulder and the ref had to reset it right there. And he went on to finish the bout and cut Hitman's hair. ATT: 54

Baltimore Arena (WCW)

Baltimore, MD

May 30, 1992

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Tom Zenk superkicked Joey Maggs. D 2) Van Hammer squashed J.T. Southern in 2:00 with a slingshot suplex. 3) Greg Valentine and Dustin Rhodes went to a 20 minute draw in a bout that wasn't as bad as it sounds. C 4) Brian Pillman small packaged Scotty Flamingo. D 5) Steiner Brothers beat Bobby Eaton, Cactus Jack, & Paul E. in a $4\frac{1}{2}$ man tag bout. Paul was leaving ringside when Larry Z. came out and carried him back. Rick pinned Bobby for the win. B 6) Barry Windham beat Terry Taylor in about that only went 5 minutes and wasn't as good as it sounds. 7) Sting & Nikita Koloff over Steve Austin & Arn Anderson. C 8) Rick Rude used the Rude awakening to beat Rick Steamboat in a cage. More on the hot finishing sequence in "Ramblings". B ATT: 2,000

 #LETTERS TO "AR"#

Klon Thumbs Up ?

I just had to write in and compliment the awesome KLON for his courageous comments regarding the shameless pandering of newsletter asskissers for the sake of getting their letters printed. Klon truly is a great writer with unprecedented insight into the business and its fans; and so astutely pointed out one of my main gripes.

I am so sick and tired of the endless name dropping and brown nosing by the readers and writers, and I share Klon's love for his favorite people in

the newsletters world- Dr. Mike Lano, Jeff Mullins, Lance Levine, Teresa DeMarie, Bill Kunkel, not to forget Dave Meltzer, Steve Sims, and yourself, the great Ron Lemieux.

Like Klone, I hate marks too; especially since one of those bastards tried to convince me that the Warlord is on steroids.

Hey KLON, luv ya buddy!

Butch Bigelow

Dead Dog, KY

Klone Thumbs Down?

Due to Klone's statement in the recent "Thumb Angles" I'll never write again to "Letters To "AR". Since it pisses him off to see letters from marks, or suck up letters, that is why I have made my decision. I realize I could give him the "Go to Hell attitude" and keep sending letters. But that's not my style. I'm the type of 19 year old who tries my best to keep from offending someone. So at Mr. Kent Herron's request, this is my final letter. In closing, I want to make it perfectly clear, while not wanting to make any enemies, I am hurt and angry over this. My only reason for writing was to enhance my own wrestling knowledge. Do me one favor, keep this sheet going until doomsday.

John Herron

Marble Hill, MO

RL- I think you took Klone's remarks too personal John. You weren't the type of person he was talking about. How else does a wrestling fan become so called "smart" if they don't ask questions. We weren't all born with the knowledge of the inside biz. I hope you rethinking your position.

Post Wrestle War

Since you did not attend the post-Wrestle War gathering at the Holiday Inn, I kept a journal of the proceedings.

10:19--Harry White entertains arriving bar patrons by playing the lobby piano while singing ribald limericks he learned during his tenure in the service

10:38--Lenis Sargent challenges Rick Rude to an arm wrestling contest.

10:39--Paramedics arrive to superglue Lenis Sargent's dismembered appendage back on his shoulder.

10:57--Craig Johnson attempts to sell a befuddled tourist a 1991 lacrosse season pass.

11:04--A siloesque gentleman leads bar patrons in a chant of "Bring on the dancing girls."

11:12--Diamond Dallas Page phones Steve Beverly to tell him, "I'm doing the 900-line now. Good God!"

11:20--Stately Wayne Manor picks up Swedish Cheerleading Team who just happen to be at the Jacksonville Holiday Inn.

11:26--Hearing rumors that Bash location has been switched, Scott Hudson suggests they hold it in his hometown--Baldimore.

11:34--Scranton contingency see a sign that reads "Drink Canada Dry", leave for Montreal to try it.

11:46--Drunken GWF groupie grabs Steven DeTruth's butt to see if it really sizzles when it's touched.

11:59--VERY timid bartender tells a roomful of wound-up rowdies that it is "last call". Empathetic patrons, realizing the hard working mixologist would like to go home, limit their last call order to a dozen drinks each.

Stately Wayne Manor

Wrong Side of The Tracks

Scandals

Regarding my pal B.T.'s letter on scandals from No. 16: Brian, as Lemieux pointed out, many speculated or heard rumors. Nothing was concrete, factual, or in the form of a sworn deposition. I wonder if any police agency, the FBI or DEA would listen to some of us reporting on inklings or "things we've heard". Come to think of it, maybe the DEA did listen. And why haven't they followed up?

None of the victims joined the morality bandwagon until now for reasons Meltzer and the workers pointed out- the kay fabe rule. Orton was right. Many over the years were afraid by snitching they'd get the "blackball" treatment. Once Billy Graham and Dave Schultz started the avalanche, it finally was safe to testify. Almsot like a witness protection plan for past mafioso, there are similar societal problems. Like wrestling and the mafia, the police have always had a no snitch rule against other cops, no matter what they did until the Rodney King incident was too powerful to ignore.

When I ran p.r. for Bart Vail's Fujiwara show, many radio guys wanted me to instead elab on Titangate. Instead I simply said, this group with the allegations is just one of many wrestling groups, and is not representative of WCW, Fujiwara, Global or any others. B.T., pop out your Japan tapes. "Wouldn't it have been better to keep quiet..?" Hell no, it took too long for this to come out as it is. Now it's time for the courts and the feds to decide. Remember it took two long years from the first media allegations to go public for Jim Baker to go to jail.

And B.T., I love you as a friend but you promised to refund Rasslin Riot sub money in Spring '91 for target 1/1/92. March rolled by and many of my friends complained you were "quiet" and no loot was sent back. If I hadn't poked you on my TV show ("Friends, reports are that the BT Express is refunding monies promptly" which was a work.), you wouldn't have sent the letters to the sheets 3 weeks later arranging for refunds. We all love you as a pal but keeping quiet on stuff just doesn't smell right. And Klon and Marianne Ryan, I miss my Arena comrades.

Mike Lane
Alameda, CA

This is a response to Brian Tramel's letter about scandals. Brian was of the opinion that the sheets are guilty for all the scandals going on in the WWF. I disagree. Dave, Wade, Irv, and even Ron are not to blame for the mess. Neither can you blame Rita Marie and the rest. Rita and the group are the victims. The media had nothing to do physically with all this shit. Vince McMahon is the one to blame. He made about a billion dollars last year. There's no way in Hell Vince didn't know what was going on right under his nose. Dave, Wade, Irv, and the rest of the media brought to light what was going on. True, we all knew somewhat of what was actually happening but we chose to do nothing about it.

The sheets came out and told us, "Such and such a guy is doing steroids, and this guy is forcing himself in homosexual ways at young ring boys and other wrestlers." If it weren't for them, all these allegations would've have been swept under the rug by McMahon.

So I say don't blame the media. Blame McMahon.

James Baker
Framingham, MA

Watts

The return of Cowboy Bill Watts riding into WCW to save the day has renewed my interest in wrestling. But I am also afraid of the consequences if Watts fails like so many before him have, to create a successful and enjoyable WCW. If the quality of the mat work rises and WCW ceases to attempt to copy the WWF and interviews once again become important, and no shows are eliminated, we will all jump for joy and call for Watts' knighthood. But what happens if house shows still fail to draw and television ratings never go beyond what Ole Anderson was getting at the high point of his booking reign? I hope we don't have to find out.

Randy Ray
Little Rock, AR

(continued from page 2)

openings.....As most of you know by now, SummerSlam has been moved from Landover, MD to London. Good move on Vince's part but it will air on tape delay here in the states two days after the event. A lot of rumors of Savage dropping the strap to Warrior in a scenario much like Hogan-Warrior from WM a couple of years ago.....You thought Owen Harts' pants looked funny, have you seen Koko's? Bobby Heenan had a ball with it on Wrestling Challenge. They were riding on his chest they were so high.....Finally saw the Warrior upchuck angle. Want to know my reaction? I was on the floor with laughter. I felt like I was watching slapstick like the 3 stooges. How can you consider the WWF anything but entertainment anymore. It sure isn't wrestling.....Oh, and here's how Lord Al Hays announced the video of the Warrior angle on the update, "I warn you to only watch if you have a strong constitution." Hey Alfred, most of your audience probably wondered what Warrior throwing up had to do with the Declaration of Independence.....Dave Prazak of 2278 Hidden Creek Ct., Lisle, IL 60532 has come out with a new bi-weekly newsletter entitled Outside Interference which contains a great deal of opinion from the staff of writers. Send \$6.00 for 4 issues.....Dave Meltzer continues to put out the best newsletter on the market in the Wrestling Observer. If you have never tried it, do so. You'll be hooked. Comes out weekly at 4 issues for \$6.00. Write to Dave at P.O. Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009.....That's it for this issue. I want to thank all of for supporting "AR". Can't believe it's still so enjoyable to publish this sheet. Thanks for reading gang. See ya in two,

Ron